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THE THIRTIETH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

TOWN OF CHESTER,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING FEB. 16, 1883.

AUDITORS:

P. H. ROBBINS, WM. ROUNDS, HUGH HENRY.

LUDLOW:
WARNER & HYDE, JOB PRINTERS.
1883.

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AUDITORS' REPORT.

The Auditors of the Town of Chester, have examined the accounts and vouchers of the Treasurer, Selectmen, Overseer of the Poor and Cemetery Commissioners, and submit the following report :

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Your Treasurer's account shows that there was on hand at last annual settlement, Feb. 16, 1882,		$3,603.30
Received of W. P. Dodge, Collector,		42.73
For rent of lease land,		55.85
Of Highway Surveyors,		837.55
L. M. Carpenter, Liquor Agent,		200.02
O. E. Heald, Liquor Agent,		300.00
State Treasurer, division of savings bank tax,		360.11
Of Selectmen for old timber, plank, and bolts sold,		23.97
Of L. Adams for use of reports,		5.00
Of A. S. Adams for sales from farm,		766.90
For taxes collected by Treasurer, list 1882,		5,300.02
Of Town of Cavendish in settlement of Green case,		75.00
Of circus company,		10.00
For dog licenses after paying damages and com.		30.80
For use of screws,		6.50
		$11,617.75
That he has paid District Treasurers on 18 orders drawn by Selectmen,	$1,110.60	
Paid interest on orders given prior to last settlement,	102.50	
Costs in Stephen Wyman case,	12.07	
Orders drawn since last settlement,	3,655.03	

And endorsed on orders given prior to last settlement,	1,100.00
State Treasurer State tax,	1,313.62
Overseer's orders,	1,356.90
Cash on hand,	2,967.03
	$11,617.75

The following will show to whom and for what purpose your Selectmen drew the 148 orders the current year, viz:

BREAKING ROADS.

No.		
3	Geo. F. Davis,	$ 1.80
4	Nelson Snell,	10.75
5	Albert Williams,	7.93
6	F. O. Clark,	2.88
1	John Hall,	2.00
22	Benj. H. Marshall,	1.00
23	C. M. Wilson,	2.00
24	John D. Clark,	2.00
113	F. E. Robinson,	5.12
		$35.48

BRIDGES AND REPAIRS TO BRIDGES.

9	Johnson & Hinds, plank,	$257.77
16	A. L. Stoodley, work on bridge,	3.15
19	Samuel H. Piper, 11,211 feet plank,	108.50
21	Johnson & Hinds, plank,	2.04
29	J. H. Harris, timber soap stone mill bridge,	425.54
31	Central Vt. R. R., freight on lumber,	24.00
26	C. H. Sanders, plank,	71.06
32	John McGrath, slating,	133.25
33	Johnson & Hinds, plank and lumber,	37.18
34	J. K. Fletcher, labor,	25.50
36	R. B. Duncklee, teaming,	34.00
39	Joel L. Marble, labor,	30.60
40	Geo. W. Sheldon, teaming,	4.70
41	Susan A. Hosmer, boarding,	8.50
42	Wm. Miller, bridge stringers,	15.00
44	G. A. Leland, work,	38.75
38	J. C. Jones, bolts,	1.30

35	Robbins & Marsh, bolts and nails,	$27.41
47	Lawson Bailey, oak lumber,	12.06
52	Q. D. Gowing, labor,	32.00
53	N. F. Hall, labor and teaming,	3.00
54	Johnson & Hinds, boards,	5.50
56	R. F. Gowing, labor,	31.00
58	Geo. Strong, teaming,	1.00
59	W. J. Powers, labor,	24.50
49	L. C. Cummings, labor,	3.25
61	G. E. Lee, labor,	4.00
62	W. C. Williams, labor,	36.00
60	H. M. Church, stringers (fractional)	10.00
63	R. W. Carpenter, labor,	18.12
64	Joel L. Marble, labor,	18.00
70	C. M. Wilson, labor,	17.00
71	Thos. E. Lonergon, labor,	12.00
72	E. A. Marsh, labor and team,	15.50
73	Barney Guild, labor,	12.00
74	Daniel French, Jr., labor,	19.00
75	N. F. Hall, labor and team,	65.00
76	J. J. Miner, boarding,	10.00
76½	Tyler L. Earl, labor,	21.00
68	E. M. Carlisle, (fractional,) labor,	7.00
65	Loring Atwood, sawing, etc.,	9.50
77	E. D. Atwood, labor,	7.00
79	E. A. Marsh, labor,	10.00
85	Loring Atwood, lumber, etc.,	5.00
86	John P. Wiley, labor,	1.50
87	L. C. Cummings, labor,	1.00
90	J. D. Powers, plank,	5.64
93	W. D. Skinner, labor and team,	16.00
94	Daniel French, Jr., labor,	7.00
95	Barney Guild, labor,	6.00
96	Chas. W. Wiggins, labor and team,	9.00
97	D. C. Woodburn, labor and team,	9.00
98	E. Sabin, boarding,	9.00
99	R. C. Sherwin, labor,	1.50
82	John D. Clark, labor and team,	27.00
100	A. A. Putnam, labor,	30.50

83	N. A. Town, labor,	$6.00
78	Henry W. Brewer, labor and team,	12.00
104	R. B. Duncklee, teaming,	9.00
106	Joseph Piper, 2d, labor,	3.75
107	John P. Wood, labor,	9.50
109	Martin Church, labor,	3.00
114	Benj. H. Marshall, labor,	3.00
46	Willard Bailey, plank,	7.25
115	Chas. O. Sargeant, labor and team,	17.50
122	E. C. Hutchinson, labor,	1.50
124	Ira H. Adams, (fractional,)	2.50
117	Robbins & Marsh, nails, etc.,	6.42
129	Geo. H. Hilton, stone,	4.00
132	C. L. Hinds, labor, (fractional,)	7.50
134	J. C. Scribner, plank,	14.50
125	O. W. Fletcher, nails and shingles,	3.85
		$1,891.09

HIGHWAYS.

7	T. J. Shurtliff, labor,	$10.67
11	John P. Wiley, labor,	6.00
13	Albert Myres, labor,	1.50
10	F. E. Robinson, labor,	14.62
20	Ozias King, labor,	4.10
14	Henry Howe, labor,	7.50
15	Lemuel H. Davis, labor,	3.75
27	S. E. Kingsbury,	14.05
28	J. A. Beard,	5.52
50	Alonzo Carrier,	1.50
60	H. M. Church, for plow, (fractional,)	8.00
12	C. C. Black, labor,	4.50
67	J. A. Beard, labor,	7.06
80	E. S. Dodge, labor,	4.50
81	Thos. Lonergon, labor,	4.50
88	J. A. Beard, labor,	14.50
89	N. F. Hall, labor,	14.50
102	Church & Deane, watering trough,	5.00
103	Daniel Davis, 3d, surveying,	2.50
105	T. B. Davis labor,	14.00

108	James Sullivan, labor,	$1.50
111	R. W. Carpenter, labor,	2.25
123	Sylvester Burke, labor,	3.25
112	O. Stoddard, labor,	8.25
126	W. E. Chittenden, labor,	8.75
147	Atwood Sargeant, labor,	2.12
		$174.39

EXPENSES INCURRED FOR INSANE POOR.

66	Dr. J. Draper,	$390.00
124	I. H. Adams, going to Brattleboro with Ruth Thompson, (fractional,)	3.10
132	C. L. Hinds, expenses in Green case, (fractional,)	1.75
		$394.85

DAMAGES ON HIGHWAY.

45	M. V. B. Morse,	$50.00
136	W. H. Johnson,	3.45
		$53.45

LAND DAMAGES.

51	Thos. J. Fullam, winter road,	$3.00
128	Pardon Field, land damage,	6.00
		$9.00

ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS.

43	F. W. Marsh, paid costs in Cavendish case,	$15.40
116	C. O. Locke, fees in Cavendish case,	6.20
135	F. W. Marsh, paid Spafford, use of house to take depositions,	1.00
131	W. E. Johnson,	21.00
130	Luther Adams,	64.87
		$108.47

LIQUORS.

55	H. A. Blanchard & Co., liquors,	$141.04
69	Central Vt. R. R., freight,	3.26
91	H. A. Blanchard & Co., liquors,	108.54
92	H. A. Blanchard & Co., liquors,	4.62

101	H. A. Blanchard & Co., liquors,	$15.00
127	H. R. Barney, freight and express,	3.60
121	H. A. Blanchard & Co., liquors,	15.00
		$291.06

MISCELLANEOUS.

17	Tuttle & Co., printing reports and blank books,	$36.15
25	M. McIntyre, jack screws,	24.00
37	Pardon Field, labor in cemetery,	4.00
18	W. M. Bent, highway books,	2.75
48	Miss Hemenway, Vol. 4, Vt. History,	2.00
68	E. M. Carlisle, care Town Hall, (fractional,)	2.00
84	D. S. Dutton, work in cemetery, 1881,	2.50
110	Tuttle & Co., blank books,	10.50
144	Chas. Robbins, recording, expenses, etc.,	17.80
145	Chas. Robbins, paid District Clerks,	8.25
		$109.95

SERVICES OF TOWN OFFICERS.

2	Mrs. H. H. Gowing, Superintendent of Schools,	$86.30
8	L. M. Carpenter, Liquor Agent,	25.00
30	L. M. Carpenter, Liquor Agent,	16.67
57	R. F. Gowing, Auditor,	3.00
119	F. W. Marsh, Town Agent, services and expenses in Mead and Green pauper cases,	17.15
120	N. A. Smith, Auditor,	3.00
118	P. H. Robbins, Auditor,	2.25
133	O. E. Heald, Liquor Agent,	50.00
138	I. H. Adams, Selectman,	53.87
137	C. L. Hinds, Selectman,	56.30
139	N. F. Hall, Selectman,	28.00
142	Martin Guild, Lister,	50.00
141	J. R. Richardson, Lister,	62.00
140	R. P. Pollard, Lister and expenses,	77.25
143	Charles Robbins, Treasurer,	30.00
146	Charles Robbins, collecting taxes,	26.50
		$587.29

RECAPITULATION.

Breaking roads,	$ 35.48
Bridges and repairs to bridges,	1,891.09
Highways,	174.39
Expenses incurred for insane poor,	394.85
Damages on highway,	53.45
Land damages,	9.00
Attorneys' fees and costs,	108.47
Liquors,	291.06
Miscellaneous,	109.95
Services of Town officers,	587.29
	$3,655.03

SELECTMEN SETTLEMENT WITH W. P. DODGE, CONSTABLE, FEBRUARY 10, 1883.

	Dr.	
To note given up,	$81.45	$81.45
	Cr.	
By cash,	$24.98	
Abatements,	17.66	
Note,	38.81	$81.45

SETTLEMENT WITH W. P. DODGE, CONSTABLE, BY CHAS. ROBBINS, FEB. 10, 1883.

	Dr.	
To note given up,	47.34	$47.34
	Cr.	
By abatements,	$ 2.99	
Cash,	17.75	
Note,	26.60	$47.34

SELECTMEN SETTLEMENT WITH CHAS. ROBBINS AS COLLECTOR.

	Dr.	
To Town tax, list 1882,	$3,253.83	
State school tax, list 1882,	1,171.58	
State tax, list 1882,	1,356.03	
Town order,	26.50	$5,807.94

Cr.

By taxes delivered W. P. Dodge, as per receipt, ... $ 313.68
Four per cent discount on Town and State school taxes, ... 167.74
Collection fees on $5,300.02, ... 26.50
Cash paid into treasury, ... 5,300.02—$5,807.94

SELECTMEN SETTLEMENT WITH L. M. CARPENTER, LIQUOR AGENT, JULY 1, 1882.

Dr.

To liquors on hand, Feb. 2, 1882, ... $527.81
Casks, measures, etc., on hand, ... 29.75
Salary, ... 41.67
Profit, ... 3.26——$602.49

Cr.

Liquors on hand, ... $379.22
Casks, measures, etc., ... 23.25
Paid Treasurer, ... 200.02——$602.49

SELECTMEN SETTLEMENT WITH O. E. HEALD, LIQUOR AGENT, FEB. 6, 1883.

Dr.

Liquors on hand, July 1, 1883, ... $379.22
Casks, measures, etc., on hand, ... 23.25
Liquors purchased by Selectmen, ... 284.20
Freight, ... 3.60
Salary, ... 50.00
Profit, ... 4.80—— $745.07

Cr.

Liquors on hand, ... $414.82
Casks, measures, etc., ... 30.25
Paid Treasurer, ... 300.00——$745.07

CEMETERY COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

Cash on hand at last settlement, ... $77.70
Of C. O. Persons for lot, ... 9.00
Of H. K. White for lot, ... 21.00
Of J. N. Morse for lot, ... 23.40
For interest, ... 4.00——$135.10

To paid E. M. Carlisle, ...$23.25
Johnson & Hinds,..... 18.07
L. T. Park,..... 8.25
P. Looney,..... 13.00
Cash on hand, ... 72.53——$135.10

SELECTMEN IN ACCOUNT WITH CAMPBELL FUND.

Paid for assistance to the following named persons, viz :

H. C. Plimpton, ...$18.36
Linda Pratt,..... 7.52
B. B. Farnsworth,..... 92.90
Flora A. Pond, ... 5.00
Alma Hoard, ... 10.00
John Tufts, ... 82.69
Mrs. Sherman,..... 1.80
Martin McIntyre, ... 37.14
D. H. Maxfield,..... 26.58
Elizabeth Hosmer,..... 20.85
J. S. Olney, ... 6.50
Varion Balch, ... 8.00
Scales family, ... 10.00
Mrs. Balch, ... 6.00
Luther Stoodley,..... 7.25
Geo. W. Sheldon,..... 8.22
Cash on hand,..... 4.86——$353.67
Cash on hand, Feb. 16, 1882, ...$153.67
Interest on bond,..... 200.00——$353.67

OVERSEER'S REPORT.

Your Overseer of the Poor has paid for the support of the poor the current year, with money drawn from the treasury as follows, viz :

STORE BILLS.

W. W. Richardson, ...$12.26
C. H. Sanders,..... 51.88
Geo. S. Robbins,..... 44.14

E. B. Lee,.....$25.70
O. W. Fletcher,..... 45.04

$179.02

PHYSICIANS AND MEDICINE.

F. W. Pierce, medicine,.....$14.35
W. N. Bryant,..... 30.00
L. G. Whiting,..... 5.00

$49.35

LABOR ON FARM.

E. A. Marsh,.....$ 25.00
Chas. Gear,..... 11.70
Eli Lizway,..... 3.00
Geo. F. Davis,..... 5.00
John W. Holmes,..... 9.00
C. A. Read,..... 229.17
Frank,..... 66.00
Abram Dodge,..... 3.00
Emma E. Barr,..... 2.50

$354.37

TAXES AND INSURANCE.

Hugh Henry, insurance,.....$ 9.10
Chas. Robbins, taxes,..... 13.60
E. S. Dodge, taxes,..... 4.70

$27.40

PAID FOR SUPPORT OF POOR OFF THE FARM.

To Arvin J. Bigelow,.....$ 3.13
Geo. Strong,..... 11.50
Geo. Strong,..... 2.00
A. E. Staples,..... 4.84
S. S. Bennett,..... 39.00
G. L. Hoard,..... 19.00
Geo. W. Sheldon,..... 35.67
A. L. Johnson,..... 65.00
D. H. Maxfield,..... 10.00
Adams & Park,..... 15.90
N. O. Johnson,..... 14.05

John Revel,	$11.90
L. G Whiting, Administrator,	15.84
W. H. Spofford,	7.00
C. H. Sanders, tramps,	4.80
W. W. Richardson,	6.24
Mrs. Wyman,	1.75
Denman Hulett,	54.15
David Wyman,	52.00
J. H. Adams,	13.80
O. W. Fletcher,	4.50
A. S. Adams,	12.70
Mary E. Bemis,	3.00
	$407.77

MISCELLANEOUS BILLS.

To H. F. Wiggens,	$115.00
Alonzo Perry,	115.00
Adams & Park,	11.62
Geo. S. Robbins,	.60
P. H. Robbins,	3.98
A. E. Staples,	7.50
Carlton & Stowell,	3.50
H. F. Guild,	15.25
Miller & Hadley,	10.61
H. B. Booth,	2.35
A. E. Staples,	4.20
L. F. Wood,	7.04
Robbins & Marsh,	5.94
Leverett Benson,	8.12
F. H. Moore,	6.00
C. A. Reed,	20.58
N. O. Johnson,	4.50
	$341.79

FUNERAL EXPENSES.

To E. M. Carlisle,	$ 8.50
Rev. A. R. Wilson,	9.00
Chas. Walker,	26.25
Oscar Miller,	6.00
	$49.75

Overseer has received from sales of stock, produce, etc., from farm the current year as follows, viz:

J. R. Richardson, pair oxen,	$125.00
Keyes, for hay,	2.80
Samuel Abbott, for cow,	30.00
J. R. Richardson, four young cattle,	100.00
Gear, for board,	1.13
Veal,	.87
C. B. Chase, timber,	94.00
Adams & Park, oats,	15.04
Veal,	1.07
Alonzo Drury, young creature,	20.00
I. H. Adams, butter,	55.93
J. R. Richardson, two three year olds,	60.00
E. A. Marsh, hay,	10.00
I. H. Adams, poultry,	26.46
Oscar Farrer, turkey,	2.37
For butter,	43.60
Samuel Abbott, hay,	6.50
Samuel Abbott, veal,	.50
Carlton & Stowell, poultry and hides,	12.25
F. W. Marsh, for milk,	16.46
Leonard, beef,	7.81
Wm. Ranney, butter,	16.25
Samuel Abbott, for turkeys,	4.50
Abram Dodge, hay,	4.05
Put Peabody, hay,	8.25
A. E. Staples, apples,	13.76
Albee, hay and vinegar,	2.65
Goods returned to W. W. Richardson,	.75
Goods returned to Johnson & Pollard,	2.00
Johnson & Pollard, poultry and eggs,	2.87
Adams & Park, oats,	3.74
E. B. Lee, eggs,	1.91
Geo. S. Robbins, butter, beans, eggs, etc.,	38.67
C. H. Sanders, eggs,	1.67
O. W. Fletcher, butter and eggs,	22.09
C. A. Read, produce sold,	11.95
	$766.90

RECAPITULATION.

Store bills,		$179.02
Physicians and medicine,		49.35
Labor on farm,		354.37
Taxes and insurance,		27.40
Support of poor off farm,		407.77
Miscellaneous bills,		341.79
Funeral expenses,		49.75
Overseer's services,		44.45
Postage and stationery,		3.00
		$1,456.90
Received from Campbell fund,	$100.00	
Three orders on Town treasurer,	590.00	
Sales from farm,	766.90	—$1,456.90

INVENTORY OF TOWN FARM, STOCK, PRODUCE, TOOLS, HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, ETC.,

As per appraisal, January 20, 1883, now on file in Town Clerk's Office.

Farm,		$4,000.00
Stock,	$663.00	
Produce,	619.50	
Farming tools,	347.25	
Miscellaneous,	116.50	
Dairy tools,	15.00	
Household Furniture,	194.50	—$1,855.75
		$5,855.75

SUMMARY: COST OF SUPPORT OF POOR.

Appraisal of farm, 1882,	$4,000.00	
Appraisal of personal property,	2,081.58	—$6,081.58
Decrease of appraisal,		$ 225.83
Overseer has paid for support of poor, including his services and expenses drawn from the treasury and from Campbell fund,		$1,456.90
Interest on appraisal of 1882,		364.89
		$1,821.79
Amount of produce sold from farm,		766.90
		$1,054.89

Actual amount expended in excess of receipts, calling the interest on last year's appraisal an expense,	$1,054.89
Decrease of 1882 appraisal,	225.83
	$1,280.72
This year's expense more than last,	$88.77

There are now four paupers on the farm and have averaged $5\frac{3}{4}$ besides the tramps. There are now supported, wholly or in part, twenty off the farm ; six are wholly dependent. Have helped twenty not included in the above.

SUMMARY, SHOWING THE FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE TOWN.

LIABILITIES.

Twenty-seven orders given prior to last settlement,	$3,836.20
Interest on above orders,	302.71
School money to be drawn from the treasury March, 1883,	1,119.10
	$5,258.01

ASSETS.

Five jack screws,	$ 25.00
Plank, timber, bolts, etc.,	337.00
Two notes against Wm. P. Dodge, subject to abatements,	65.41
Lock-up, (estimated on price offered,)	150.00
Forty shares Steam Mill stock, (par value,)	2,000.00
Personal property on Town farm, (appraisers valuation,)	2,081.58
Liquors, casks, measures, etc.,	445.07
Cash in Town treasury,	2,935.68
Gravel banks,	50.00
	$8,089.74

NOMINAL ASSETS.

In other words the town owes,	$5,258.01
And has nominal assets,	8,089.74
Excess of nominal assets,	$2,831.73

In the above $5,258.01 Town debt is included $1,119.10 school money ; to meet which the fund is in the Treasurer's hands, leaving $3,836.20, interest bearing obligations, and $302.71 interest ; making in all $4,138.91 for the Town to meet. If deemed advisable to wipe out this debt at once, the Town should decide whether they will sell the Steam Power Co. stock for what it will sell for, apply what cash can be spared from the treasury, or vote a tax sufficient to pay the whole indebtedness, and retain their Steam Mill stock and cash in hands of Treasurer.

Town debt last year,.....$6,363.00
Town debt this year,.....5,258.01

Decrease of debt, ...$1,104.00

We have been unable to agree in a cash valuation of the Steam Power stock, and leave that to be determined by future sales.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

P. H. ROBBINS,
WM. ROUNDS, } Auditors.
HUGH HENRY,

COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

To the Town of Chester:—

Your Committee appointed at your last annual Town Meeting to take into consideration the subject of schools, and report at your next annual Town Meeting what measures the Town ought to adopt, if any, for the better accommodation and facilities for education, and especially to report whether the Town ought to adopt the town system or establish a central school, beg leave to submit for your consideration the following as their report:

Your committee have held three public meetings during the present winter and invited a full discussion of the subject we had under consideration, and was favored with able and thorough discussion at each meeting. We have given careful

thought, bringing to our aid statistics and the organization by geographical limits of the several school districts in town, and find that many changes ought to be made, in order to have efficiency; — many districts are deficient in the number of scholars for a school of interest or profit, and would be benefited by being enlarged in territory.

As it regards the adoption of the town system, by the abolishment of the several districts, at the present time your committee do not recommend, but do recommend the district system and the establishing of a central high school for the advanced pupils of the several districts in town.

We further recommend the following action by the Town in relation to District No. 12, called the Fisher district: That the lands lying in said district owned by the following named persons,—T. A. Edwards, M. H. Brewer, Washington Adams, Amelia Paine, Lyman Fisher, E. M. Carlisle, Oscar Heald, Maria Sherwin, N. F. Hall, Mary A. Smith, Ira H. Adams,—be set to District No. 3. The lands lying in said District No. 12 owned by the following named persons,—Willard M. Howard, Adams & Stearns,—be set to District No. 2. The lands lying in said District No. 12 owned by the following named persons,—F. Church, D. W. Dunn, H. C. Plympton,—be set to District No. 5, and the lands lying in said District No. 12 owned by the following named persons,—Riley Phillips, William Chandler, Rodney G. Britton,—be set to District No. 13. The lands lying and being in District No. 19, called the Wyman district, owned by the following named persons,—Moses March, Herman Guild and Lewis Hill, F. O. Clark, Geo. Morrison, Samuel Alford's estate, and William H. Johnson,—be set to District No. 16. The lands lying and being in said District No. 19 owned by the following named persons,—Leland & Davis, Walter M. Walker, Olney Bates' estate, Lydia Adams, T. W. Heald, E. P. Kingsbury, J. C. Balch, Almira Rugg, J. E. Green, B. Farnsworth's estate, Geo. A. Brown, and J. R. Richardson,—be set to District No. 4. The lands lying and being in District No. 20 owned by the following named persons,—Mrs. A. Blaisdell, Ella N. Pierce, Moses Dow, Zenas Marshall, Mrs. Oliver Ellis' estate, R. F. Fisher and Robbins

& Marsh, the carriage shop and dwelling house and lands thereunto belonging, occupied by Myron D. Batchelder and owned by N. O. Johnson, the dwelling house lately occupied by L. A. Bolles and the land thereunto belonging now owned by J. R. Richardson, and the lands of H. A. Gould, Phebe Carpenter's estate, and Colman Sanders, now occupied by C. H. Sanders, Chester Steam Power Company, and the Rutland Railroad Company,—be set to District No. 3. The lands owned and occupied as the Congregational parsonage, lately set off from District No. 6 to District No. 20, be set back to said District No. 6.

Your committee are of the opinion that upon a careful examination of the several districts in town a further geographical altering of the limits of the districts would be found desirable, and to this end we recommend the appointment of a committee at your next annual Town Meeting to consider the same and report to the Town.

We are satisfied that the statutes of our State are wanting in many essential points. The Town Superintendent should have more power, more duties to perform, and more pay. The law governing text books is a folly; it should be a uniformity throughout the State, and the State should publish the books and furnish them to each town, covering the cost of publishing and transportation.

We are also of the opinion that the statute providing for the town system is deficient and objectionable in giving unlimited power to the directors. They have the power to establish the primary and graded schoolhouses in such localities as they see fit, and also to establish graded schools and provide for the instruction of scholars in the higher branches, contract with all teachers, and to control the building and maintenance of all the schoolhouses in town, and draw warrants upon the Town treasury covering all such expenses.

We are of the opinion that the Town ought to have the privilege of locating the schoolhouses and making the appropriations for the cost of building the same, and also to set some limit upon the directors' action and power by making an annual appropriation for the current expenses of schools.

We believe the Town Superintendent ought to have the power under the district system to classify the schools and direct the grade of books to be used by each scholar, and also have power personally to make complaint and cause prosecution to be instituted to carry into effect the statute for compulsory attendance of scholars.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

GEO. L. FLETCHER,
F. W. MARSH,
A. F. BALDWIN,
GEO. S. ROBBINS,
WILLARD BAILEY,
} COMMITTEE.

Chester, Vt., February 20, 1883.

TOWN SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

Another year has passed, and once more we present the customary report. There have been 43 terms of school taught by 29 different teachers. No male teachers have been employed. Some of the schools are not yet closed, but the prudential committees and teachers in those districts have furnished me the statistics given, the average for the last term being made up at the close of the eleventh week; and the district clerks having all kindly responded to the call made for the registers in the districts where the schools are closed, I am enabled to furnish the statistics found in the following report:

Whole number of weeks of school, 452; amount of public money, $727.96; amount of teachers' wages and board, $2,520.65; other expenses, including repairs, new furniture, fuel, etc., $712.10. [This does not include Dist. No. 13, as the schoolhouse is situated in Springfield, and the school is not under my supervision, and I have not yet received the register.]

District No. 1.—Prudential Committee, James Parker. Teacher, Irena Martin. Public money, $41.60.

	1st Term.	*2d Term.*	*3d Term.*
Length of school in weeks,	10	7	7
Number of pupils,	7	8	6
Average attendance,	7	7.5	6
Visits by Prudential Committee,	1	0	0
Teacher's wages and board,	$37.50	$33.25	$33.25
Other expenses, including fuel and incidentals,			$11.84

This school was fortunate in having an experienced teacher for the three terms, and though its members were small, they were all interested, prompt in attendance, orderly and studious.

District No. 2.—Prudential Committee, F. H. Whitcomb. Teachers, Grace E. Lee, 1st term; Bertha Whitcomb, 2d term. Public money, $49.49.

	1st Term.	*2d Term.*
Length of school in weeks,	11	13
Number of pupils,	9	10
Average attendance,	8.5	9.4
Visits by Prudential Committee,	1	1
Teacher's wages and board,	$41.25	$65.00
Other expenses,		$14.30

Good order and a commendable degree of interest is found here, but the numbers have been growing less for some time and the prospects for the next summer are not more than four pupils.

District No. 3.—Prudential Committee, I. P. Stevens. Teachers, Ella Rounds, 1st and 2d terms; K. H. Deane, 3d term. Public money, $114.85.

	1st Term.	*2d Term.*	*3d Term.*
Length of school in weeks,	10	10	12
Number of pupils,	41	44	29
Average attendance,	38.8	40.7	28.3
Visits by Prudential Committee,	2	2	2
Teacher's wages and board,	$75.00	$85.00	$96.00
Other expenses, including fuel, rent, new furniture, incidentals,			$97.63

Primary Department.—Teacher, Eva L. McIntyre.

Length of school in weeks,	12
Number of pupils,	21
Average attendance,	20¼
Visits by Prudential Committee,	2
Teacher's wages and board,	$50.00

At the close of the second term this school was divided, for the third term. The teachers employed in each department have been constant and faithful workers, and good progress has been made, but much more might have been accomplished in the higher department, had *all* the pupils been inclined to make the most of the advantages provided. In the primary school we find not only a zealous teacher, but pupils eager to be taught, and the results are very gratifying. No one visiting this school can fail to acknowledge the success of the experiment.

District No. 4.—Prudential Committee, DeWitt Davis. Teachers, Lillian L. Kimball, 1st term; Helen M. Craigue, 2d and 3d terms. Public money, $76.11.

	1st Term.	*2d Term.*	*3d Term.*
Length of school in weeks,	10	10	10
Number of pupils,	21	26	22
Average attendance,	18	21.7	20
Visits by Prudential Committee,	3	0	0
Teacher's wages and board,	$40.00	$50.50	$52.50
Other expenses, including fuel, repairs, etc.,			$236.22

The schoolroom in this district has been thoroughly repaired, and is now one of the best in town. School appears well.

District No. 5.—Prudential Committee, N. J. Snell. Teachers, Julia Redfield, 1st term; Mellie Jenkins, 2d term. Public money, $50.39.

	1st Term.	2d Term.
Length of school in weeks,	10	12
Number of pupils,	4	10
Average attendance,	3.9	8
Visits by Prudential Committee,	1	0
Teacher's wages and board,	$31.50	$53.60
Other expenses,		$13.75

This school has had four pupils from No. 12 the past winter. Taking out the older ones that will not attend school in the summer leaves but 2 or 3 for the next school. It is to be hoped that some suitable provision may be made for the few, if the district do not feel able to support a school.

District No. 6.—Prudential Committee, J. N. Moore. Teacher, E. E. B. Davis. Public money, $86.97.

	1st Term.	2d Term.	3d Term.
Length of school in weeks,	10	8	12
Number of pupils,	26	31	36
Average attendance,	23.5	26.7	32
Visits by Prudential Committee,	3	2	2
Teacher's wages and board,	$60.00	$56.00	$84.06
Other expenses, including fuel, incidentals, etc.,			$28.96

This school is composed of pupils whose ages are from 6 to 21 years. There is, therefore, a great amount of work to be done by the teacher. The school is in excellent order, and good progress has been made.

District No. 7.—Prudential Committee, Wm. Pierce, Thom. Adams, Denman Hulett. Teachers, Abbie Rounds, 1st term; Gertrude Geary, 2d term. Public money, $43.95.

	1st Term.	2d Term.
Length of school in weeks,	12	12
Number of pupils,	12	10
Average attendance,	7.8	7.8
Visits by Prudential Committee,	2	3
Teacher's wages and board,	$28.08	$47.60
Other expenses,		$8.92

The schoolroom is made bright and cheerful by a few happy faces, and an abundance of pictures and evergreen upon the walls. One little boy of nine years ranks among the most advanced in town of his age.

District No. 8.—Prudential Committee, E. A. Marsh. Teachers, Clara E. Gowing, 1st term; Ella Feltt, 2d term. Public money, $60.50.

	1st Term.	2d Term.
Length of school in weeks,	12	12
Number of pupils,	16	14
Average attendance,	13.4	11.5
Visits by Prudential Committee,	1	1
Teacher's wages and board,	$39.00	$60.00
Other expenses,		$21.68

A few dollars expended in paint, paper and whitewash would improve the schoolroom greatly, and would be a very light tax upon the district. Maps, globe, dictionary and clock are all wanting.

District No. 9.—Prudential Committee, Ransom Sherwin. Teachers, Edna Davis, 1st term; Sylvia Sherwin, 2d term. Public money, $45.18.

	1st Term.	*2d Term.*
Length of school in weeks,	10	12
Number of pupils,	7	9
Average attendance,	5.3	7.4
Visits by Prudential Committee,	0	0
Teacher's wages and board,	$30.00	$50.00
Other expenses, including fuel, repairs, etc.,		$24.36

The clerk reports 18 children is this district between 5 and 20 years of age. Where are they? At the most only one half is represented in the school, and one of those has credited to him only 23 days in the two terms. There are two little boys in this school, also, that may safely be counted in as ranking high with the pupils of their age.

District No. 11.—Prudential Committee, J. A. Chandler. Teachers, Mary E. Robbins, 1st term; Ella D. Rounds, 2d term. Public money $49.48.

	1st Term.	*2d Term.*
Length of school in weeks,	10	10
Number of pupils,	16	19
Average attendance,	13	18
Visits by Prudential Committee,	1	1
Teacher's wages and board,	$36.50	$57.00
Other expenses,		$12.80

The teacher employed the first term was lacking in energy, consequently the school appeared dull and inactive. The second term was marked with so complete a change that it is due to all concerned that it be mentioned. The register, heretofore literally covered with absent marks, shows an excellent average this term. The pupils are awake, and we hope the parents have a just appreciation of the work accomplished. Quite a delegation attended this school from Baltimore, and they specially deserve credit for their prompt attendance, notwithstanding the distance, over bad roads, snow drifts, etc.

District No. 15.—Prudential Committee, Sardine Haggett. Teachers, Grace Smith, 1st term; Nellie Williams, 2d term. Public money, $58.90.

	1st Term.	2d Term.
Length of school in weeks,	10	12
Number of pupils,	12	20
Average attendance,	9.7	17
Visits by Prudential Committee,	0	0
Teacher's wages and board,	$39.20	$56.90
Other expenses, including fuel, repairs, etc.,		$18.57

The schoolhouse has been greatly improved by the outlay of a few dollars in paper and whitewash, and we hope they will continue the good work. This school would bear a more rigid discipline.

District No. 16.—Prudential Committee, J. B. Dunbar. Teachers, Marcia Bailey, 1st and 2d terms; C. Ellen Dunbar, 3d term. Public money, $75.57.

	1st Term.	2d Term.	3d Term.
Length of school in weeks,	10	8	10
Number of pupils,	33	33	26
Average attendance,	29.6	30.6	24
Visits by Prudential Committee,	1	1	0
Teacher's wages and board,	$55.00	$52.00	$70.00
Other expenses, including fuel, furniture, etc.,			$97.00

A new set of Mitchell's Outline Maps, and a new blackboard have been furnished for the school. The teacher for the third term wished to have Lizzie Church, Lucy Buswell, Bertha Whittaker, Mary Walsh and Jewett Boynton mentioned as deserving special commendation for studiousness during the term.

District No. 17.—Prudential Committee, S. H. Piper. Teachers, Lucinda S. Lovell, 1st term; Grace E. Lee, 2d term. Public money, $40.61.

	1st Term.	2d Term.
Length of school in weeks,	12	12
Number of pupils,	14	12
Average attendance,	12	10
Visits by Prudential Committee,	1	2
Teacher's wages, including board,	$47.00	$63.60
Other expenses, including fuel, map, etc.,		$15.75

The Clerk reports 20 children of school age in this district. A new map has been purchased, and now more blackboard room, and a teacher who will have it used in every recitation, are among the immediate needs of this school.

District No. 19.—Prudential Committee, Wm. Farnsworth. Teachers, Izella Stoodley, 1st term; Carrie Dodge, 2d term. Public money, $44.40.

	1st Term.	2d Term.
Length of school in weeks,	10	10
Number of pupils,	7	11
Average attendance,	5.6	7
Visits by Prudential Committee,	2	1
Teacher's wages and board,	$40.00	$40.00
Other expenses,		$4.92

This is one of the districts that need help from outside. The number of pupils the coming year will be from 2 to 4 unless others move into the district. They need good teaching and it is to be hoped that provision will be made for them.

District No. 20.—Prudential Committee, Hugh Henry, Mrs. P. A. Fullerton, C. O. Locke. Teachers, Helen M. Gray, (higher department,); Fannie A. Ward, (primary.) Public money, $156.01.

	1st Term.	2d Term.	3d Term.
Length of school in weeks,	10	10	12
Number of pupils,	25	28	30
Average attendance,	21.8	23	26.6
Visits by Prudential Committee,	6	6	2
Teacher's wages and board,	$85.00	$85.00	$111.00

Primary.—

	1st Term.	2d Term.	3d Term.
Length of school in weeks,	10	10	12
Number of pupils,	41	43	39
Average attendance,	34.5	37.2	35
Visits by Prudential Committee,	7	4	3
Teacher's wages and board,	$85.00	$85.00	$111.00
Other expenses, including fuel and incidentals,			$87.90

The higher department has been conducted by a teacher of large experience. Those who have carefully watched the school through the year must have noted the increased interest manifested. Apparently, some classes have accomplished more the last term than in the two preceding terms. In the primary department there is no lack of life and animation. There seems to be a pleasant relation existing between teacher and pupils, and an earnest desire to improve. To say that these little ones are doing as well as last year is all that need be said.

District No. 22.—Prudential Committee, J. F. Powers. Teacher, Agnes Thompson, 1st term; Juliette Dwinell, 2d and 3d term. Public money, $67.10.

	1st Term.	2d Term.	3d Term.
Length of school in weeks,	10	10	10
Number of pupils,	16	17	16
Average attendance,	13	15.5	14
Visits by Prudential Committee,	0	0	0
Teacher's wages and board,	$50.00	$70.00	$77.50
Other expenses,			$17.50

There was a lack of discipline during the first term, but the second and third terms have been a success.

At the commencement of the second terms of school, I proposed that the teachers report to me the names of pupils entitled to be placed upon a "Roll of Honor" in this report. But so few have responded that it seems unfair to print those I have received, inasmuch as I am certain there are others, in the schools not reported that are equally deserving. I will make out a list by districts, of those I have received, and hand them to the local correspondent of the *Vermont Tribune* for publication.

Although our schools are far from being what they should be, still we trust they are not all retrograding. A majority of the teachers have been well qualified, and some of them veterans in the service. Many of them have seemed to feel the great responsibility resting upon them and have been anxious to improve each and every opportunity for perfecting themselves in the work. It affords me great pleasure to say that nearly every teacher in town takes an educational paper. And who can say, that from these papers, containing as they do practical hints and suggestions from teachers of experience, our teachers may not gather new inspiration and wisdom which must ultimately benefit their pupils? In some instances I find teachers so attached to the text-book, that it really seems alarming, and promises to prove fatal to the advancement of those in their care. They are always careful to ask the questions laid down in the book, and require the answers to be the exact words of the author, without any additional explanation or talk of any kind. Such teaching cannot arouse the mind of a child, but on the contrary must serve to create a disrelish for study, and render the mind dormant and inactive.

Unfortunately there has been a change of teachers in a majority of our schools the past year. In some cases they would have been retained had not poor health or some other cause prevented their acceptance of the situation. Some of the teachers were inefficient, and the needs of the school demanded a change, and others were hired for the first term, knowing some one else was to follow them the next, however well they might succeed. This should be avoided.

Secure *good* teachers—not *cheap* ones—and then retain them so long as they are faithful, if possible. There is, also, a tendency on the part of some to push the child along—measure the amount of his attainments by the quantity of books he has devoured. The consequence is that children are reading in the Fifth Reader, groping along in darkness, struggling with words whose meaning they cannot comprehend, who should be carefully learning not only to pronounce the words in the Third Reader, but also to be able to analyze and define those words. Let us bear in mind that simply pronouncing words is not reading properly. Another evil is the variety of text-books in some of the schools, which prevents the pupils being properly classed in many cases. Those who lived in another town when the present list was adopted, and have since removed here, find a different list in use, and often are unwilling to change. If the teacher insists that it is for the best interests of all concerned, that they have books enabling them to go on with a class instead of plodding along alone, she is pronounced unreasonable and exacting, and her influence begins to decline. What is the remedy? Some towns in the State which still retain the district system own the books used in the schools. Will any one have the courage to propose that this town take this one step in advance?

On looking over the registers we find a goodly number of visitors' names recorded, but in most cases the number of *parents'* names forcibly remind us of angels' visits. In fact, we might almost imagine the FATHERS were not among the living, or were journeying in a foreign land; for with the exception of the committees, there have been but *fourteen fathers* that have visited the 43 terms of school, up to this date. Do they hire men to work on their farms, or in shops, and neglect to look after them? Nay, the question of dollars and cents decides that matter. They cannot *afford* to neglect them thus, for they are aware that many of them would fail to earn half their wages; and the faithful ones need to be stimulated to continue in their faithfulness, by words of approbation and encouragement. Let me say to you, school teachers are human, and not very much unlike other hired help in these respects. How it aids and encourages the teachers, when the parents visit the schools, and assure them

they appreciate their efforts, and will co-operate with them in the faithful discharge of their duties. On the other hand nothing can be more detrimental to the school, than to watch for and magnify the defects of a teacher in the presence of the children. And in almost every instance where this is practiced, it is by those who absent themselves from the schoolroom and get their knowledge of the school second-hand.

Children should be required to attend school regularly and promptly, unless sickness or some other unavoidable circumstance prevent. Keeping children out of school a day or two, now and then, to work, play, or visit, should not be practiced.

In Districts No. 3 and 20 they have supported 32 weeks of school. In my opinion, three terms of ten weeks each would be full as beneficial. In most of the schools visited the eleventh and twelfth week of the term, both teacher and pupils seemed too tired to do good work, and in some cases there were more absences recorded than during the ten weeks previous.

Where districts support two long terms of 12 weeks each, it seems advisable to have three terms,—having the schools in May and June, September and October, December and January. The attendance would be better, and the pupils would receive more benefit from the school; as with the present arrangement the older boys are kept at home the latter part of the first term, to work in the hay-field, and most of the smaller children, living quite a distance from the school, are obliged to remain at home soon after the advent of the long hot days of July and August.

Of the workings of the town system I am not acquainted personally, and therefore cannot recommend or disapprove. One thing is certain, the schools in those States that have this system are second to none, and there is no disposition to return to the district system. We are glad to know that the committee, chosen last year to investigate the needs of the schools, are attending to this matter, and we trust the measures they may recommend will be duly considered by the Town.

Great reforms are said to move with snail-like rapidity, therefore the "Town system," "Central School," etc., will probably appear in the far distant future, if ever.

Still, setting this great change aside, we feel that progressive steps might be taken which would greatly benefit the schools, and not be of sufficient magnitude to frighten the timid or alarm the cautious. It is well to have the subject brought before us each year, that we may in time be enlightened in regard to it, and prepared to meet it.

In this matter, which so deeply concerns us as a community, let us work together with a will for the common good of the whole; adopting measures to increase the efficiency of our schools, and we shall be blest in the present, and the future will fully repay our efforts.

Thanking the teachers and the citizens generally for the kindness and respect shown me, I respectfully submit this report.

MRS. H. H. GOWING, Superintendent.

NOTICE—TOWN MEETING.

The inhabitants of the Town of Chester, Vt., who are legal voters in Town Meeting, are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Town Hall in the South Village in Chester, on Tuesday, the 6th day of March, A.D. 1883, at 10 o'clock A.M., to act on the following articles, viz.: —

1st,—To choose a Moderator to preside in said meeting;

2d,—To hear and act upon the report of the Town Auditors and the state of the treasury;

3d,—To see if the Town will adopt the method of collecting taxes the ensuing year as prescribed by the Legislature of 1880;

4th,—To see if the Town will fix the compensation to be paid for the collection of all State, State School, County and Town Taxes on the List of 1883, by receiving bids in writing previous to the election of Constable and Collector, and that all bids shall state in dollars and cents what they will collect all of said taxes for, and whoever shall be elected Collector shall collect the same for the sum which he bids;

5th,—To choose Town Officers for the year ensuing;

6th,—To see if the Town will vote to raise money to pay the current expenses of the Town for the year next ensuing, and a part of its present indebtedness, and if so how much, and when to be collected and paid into the Town treasury;

7th,—To see what course the Town will take to keep the highways and bridges in repair for the year ensuing;

8th,—For each voter to deposit his vote for some suitable person for County Commissioner in the County of Windsor to regulate the sale of intoxicating liquors;

9th,—To see if the Town will elect one or more Trustees to receive from the Town Treasurer and disburse the income from the Campbell fund, who shall keep a detailed account of such disbursements and report annually to the Town Treasurer, who shall submit said report to the Auditors for approval, the Selectmen still retaining the control of the investment of the original fund;

10th,—To see if the Town will vote to refund to Aaron L. Robbins the pay for the property that the Overseer of the Poor took from him for the Town a few years ago;

11th,—To see if the Town will vote to exempt from taxation the new gristmill now building by Q. D. Gowing, and all the machinery and other appliances necessary for the prosecution of the business, and all capital invested in and used for operating the same, together with all such machinery hereafter put into the building already erected but not finished or now occupied, for a term not exceeding ten years, agreeably to Section 2 of Act No. 128 of the laws of Vermont passed in the year 1880;

12th,—To see if the Town will vote to purchase of Mrs. G. M. Lee the tomb in the North Village cemetery;

13th,—To see if the Town will vote to fence the Common in the North Village;

14th,—To see if the Town will vote an appropriation to defray the expenses of a proper observance of Decoration Day, and if so what amount, and elect a committee of three to have charge of the same;

15th,—To see if the Town will adopt the Town system of schools;

16th,—To see if the Town will vote to establish one or more central schools and create one or more districts for such purpose;

17th,—To see if the Town will vote to set from School District No. 12, Fisher district, to School District No. 3 in Chester the real estate of T. A. Edwards, M. H. Brewer, Washington Adams, Amelia Payne, J. L. Fisher, E. M. Carlisle, Oscar E. Heald, Mrs. Maria Sherwin, N. F. Hall, Mary A. Smith, and Ira H. Adams; also, to set to School District No. 2 in Chester the real estate of W. M. Howard and Stearns & Adams; also, to set to School District No. 5 in Chester the real estate of Frank Church, Daniel W. Dunn, and Henry C. Plympton; also, to set to School District No. 13 in Chester the real estate of Riley Phillips, Wm. D. Chandler, and Rodney G. Britton,—the above from School District No. 12;

18th,—To see if the Town will vote to set from School District No. 19, Wyman district, in Chester to School District No. 16 the real estate of Moses March, Guild & Hill, Frank O. Clark, George Morrison, Samuel Alford's estate, and W. H. Johnson; also, to set to School District No. 4 in Chester the real estate of Leland & Davis, Walter M. Walker, Olney Bates' estate, Lydia Adams, Warren Heald, E. P. Kingsbury, John C. Balch, Almira F. Rugg, Jackson E. Green, Benj. B. Farnsworth's estate, George A. Brown, and J. R. Richardson,—all from District No. 19;

19th,—To see if the Town will vote to set from School District No. 20 to School District No. 3 in Chester the real estate of Mrs. Laura L. Blaisdell, Moses Dow, Zenas Marshall, Mrs. Oliver Ellis' estate, R. F. Fisher and Robbins & Marsh, carriage shop and lot, N. O. Johnson's carriage shop and house and lot occupied by M. D. Batchelder, J. R. Richardson's house and lot, Harvey A. Gould's house and lot, Phebe Carpenter's house and lot, Coleman Sanders' store and lot, Chester Steam Power Co.'s real estate, Rutland Railroad and Alla N. Pierce;

20th,—To see if the Town will vote to set back the real estate of the Congregational parsonage from District No. 20 to District No. 6;

21st,—To see if the Town will vote to establish one High or Central School and fix the boundaries of the same; also, to elect District Officers as prescribed by the statutes for such Districts;

22d,—To see if the Town will vote to fix upon a location for a High or Central Schoolhouse, and purchase land for the same, and provide for the erection of school buildings thereon as the statute provides;

23d,—To see if the Town will vote to choose a committee of five to examine the School Districts in the Town and report at the next annual March meeting whether or not the Town should be redistricted or any other action taken towards a better system of schools;

24th,—To see if the Town will vote to exempt the polls of the members of Yosemite Engine Co. No. 1 from taxation the year ensuing; also the engineers of Fire District No. 2 in Chester.

CALVIN L. HINDS,
IRA H. ADAMS,
NATHAN F. HALL,
} SELECTMEN.

Dated at Chester, Vt., this 21st day of February, A.D. 1883.

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